Greetings,

Welcome to Case Communicaitons April 2008 Newsletter. This month we announce the launch of our new Mobile Router with GPS, 3G and Wi-Fi and look at speeding up the Internet.

In common with the last few months another major organisation has lost customer records, it will soon be worthy of this newsletter when we can report 'No Reecords' lost this month.

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Building a Faster Internet

A conductor in Tokyo moves his baton, and an orchestra in Cleveland starts to play. A few bars later, a violinist in Berlin joins in. To compensate for a slight delay, the musicians play along with an electronic metronome. The performance is broadcast on high-fidelity speakers and high-definition television. Such a musical experiment would be challenging enough for a television network to pull off; over the Internet, it would be impossible.

More

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FCC chairman to oppose Skype open-network petition

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin said on Tuesday he was proposing to dismiss a petition from Web-based phone service Skype to force open wireless networks.

More

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No Dear - I'm on the Plane
The disturbing idea of airborne phone calls

More

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Intel rolls out Atom chips at Shanghai tech forum
Intel Corp is rolling out five new Atom microprocessors and a collection of chips designed for portable gadgets that access the Internet and for other uses, as tthe work's largest chipmaker uses its marketing muscle to help create a new market.

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AT & T Claims without Investment the Internet will run out of capacity by 2010

The US telecoms giant AT&T has claimed that, without investment, the internet's current network architecture will reach the limits of its capacity by 2010.

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Addiction to Internet an Illness?

New evidence shows that heavy users suffer isolation, fatigue and withdrawal symptons

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Charges for Internet TV on Demand Users

Tens of thousands of internet users are being hit with hidden charges for downloading television programmes to their computers. One leading finance expert warns that customers could see their bills rise by as much as £20 a month because of the extra costs

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Government loses hundreds of laptops

A series of written parliamentary answers have revealed that they have lost over 850 laptops. Between 2002 and 2007, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was the biggest culprit, having lost or had stolen 248 laptops, 127 mobile telephones and 20 personal digital assistants (PDA).

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Coming Soon: Superfast Internet

Scientists have now built a lightning fast replacement for the Internet capable of downloading entire feature films within seconds

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Third Suppliers drops out of ID Cards

A third supplier has dropped out of the procurement process for the National Identity Scheme

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HSBC faces the prospect of an investigation by

the FSA after admititng it had lost 370,000 customers details

HSBC is facing the prospect of an investigation by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) after admitting it had lost a disc containing details of 370,000 customers.

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April 2008 - Case Communications Launches their CRM 60502 Mobile GSM / 3G Router.

Case Communications are pleased to announce the launch of their new CRM 60502 Mobile router, which is a cellular router designed for GSM / GPRS / 3G networks.

More

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Case Communications April 2008 Newsletter

Building a Faster Internet

That may soon change. Engineers are developing a new type of Internet connection called a dynamic-circuit network that could carry so much data so quickly it might startle even Net surfers in Japan or South Korea. If all goes to plan, the vast data speeds required for such a collaboration may soon be available to all. That might go a long way to solving the problem of how to handle the enormous growth in Internet traffic, which by some estimates is doubling each year.

When a digital photo, YouTube clip or live streaming video is sent over the Internet, the data is first divided into packets, which are routed to the destination and then reassembled. This method tends to break down when large amounts of information are sent along similar pathways at the same time—the different packets are prone to getting hung up on bottlenecks. The result is a Web page that crashes or an online videoconference that sputters and skips. As the Internet starts to stagger under the weight of more and more data, such problems are increasingly common.

Dynamic-circuit network technology would solve the bottleneck problem by opening up a dedicated route from one point to another through which data can be sent without interruption, at speeds thousands of times faster than what's possible now. Just as quickly, the pathway can be closed and space made available for the next connection. The technology would require some new software and fiber-optic links right up to the PC, but otherwise no change in infrastructure.

The potential difference in data speed is staggering. Whereas a PC can now stream two simultaneous video channels, on a dynamic-circuit network it could send 4,000 channels at once. Downloading a high-definition movie over a cable Internet connection of 4.5 megabytes per second would take about three hours. Over a 10-gigabit-per-second dynamic-circuit network, the same movie would download in five seconds.

The technology is being developed by Internet2, a consortium of U.S. universities, companies and scientific and governmental organizations. For now, only a handful of people can use it. It's being tested on the soon-to-be-operational Large Hadron Collider in Europe, where scientists must share massive amounts of data about the collision of subatomic particles. Astronomers are also using it to share data from radio telescopes. And medical researchers plan to use it to collaborate on long-distance

examinations and consultations. Internet2 hopes to complete testing in May 2008 and roll the technology out shortly after.

The consortium is working on standards and open-source software designed to make the technology freely available to everybody. But some experts aren't convinced that the Internet needs a new method of sending data. Recent progress in making "packet switching" software more efficient, as well as better optical fiber and faster servers and routers, have convinced them that the old ways work just fine. Even if the new technology isn't essential, says Internet2 CEO Doug Van Houweling, "it's very hard to predict what's going to happen. Every time we add an important new technical capability to the Internet, really smart people figure out how to do things with it that we never imagined."

Karen Pinchin
Newsweek March 2008

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FCC chairman to oppose Skype open-network petition

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Martin said he would circulate a proposal among the four other FCC commissioners dismissing the petition which Skype, a unit of online auction leader eBay Inc, had filed a little over a year ago with the communications regulator.

"In light of the (wireless) industry's embrace of a more open wireless platform, it would be premature to adopt any other requirements across the industry," Martin said in prepared remarks at the annual U.S. wireless industry trade show in Las Vegas.

To cheers from the audience of mobile industry insiders, Martin said he was opposing the Skype petition because of a need to strike a balance between supporting innovation and investments in network infrastructure by telephone companies.

Skype has attracted hundreds of millions of users worldwide to its free or low-cost Web-based phone calling services. It relies on peer-to-peer technology that distributes network capacity among users signed on to the system.

At the center of Skype's petition are open-platform "Carterfone" requirements, named after a precedent-setting decision by the FCC in 1968, which forced the Bell telephone monopoly to open up and allow outside devices to run on formerly closed networks, as long as they did not cause damage to the system.

In recent years, the two largest wireless carriers, AT&T and Verizon Wireless, have agreed to abide by open-access principles.

Verizon Wireless is a joint venture of Verizon Communications Inc and Vodafone Group Plc.

The FCC imposed open-platform requirements on a large block of the 700-megahertz wireless spectrum recently auctioned by the government. The block was acquired by Verizon Wireless.

But Martin said he has opposed other network-opening proposals that he said would undermine investment incentives.

"This careful balancing of spurring innovation and consumer choice while encouraging infrastructure investment is critical to the wireless industry's continued impressive growth," Martin said.

Martin's proposal to dismiss the Skype petition got a cool response from one of the two Democratic commissioners on the FCC, Michael Copps.

"This is not the time for the FCC to declare victory and withdraw from the fight for open wireless networks," Copps said.

"While we are all encouraged by preliminary commitments from some of the major carriers, we haven't seen the details yet on how they are going to proceed -- and the devil is always in the details, isn't it?" Copps said.

Courtsey of Reuters 2008

No Dear - I'm on the Plane

Passengers shouting: "Hello! I'm on the plane!" could soon join cramped legroom and bad food on the list of in-flight annoyances as airlines moved closer yesterday to allowing the use of mobile phones on board.

The communications regulator, Ofcom, gave the all-clear for British aircraft to install systems that will allow passengers to make calls and send texts, destroying one of the last refuges from the mobile phone.

The ruling means that British airlines can apply for the wavelengths needed to make calls in the air. On-board base stations, or picocells, which would be switched on at a height of 10,000ft (3,000m), will allow licensed aircraft to link up with mobile operators via satellite. Passengers would pay a roaming rate and would be billed by their phone companies as normal. Passengers would not be allowed to use their phones during take-off and landing. The airlines BMI and Ryanair, which plan to install the technology, welcomed the move. Ryanair has linked up with the Irish service provider OnAir to test the technology on 20 of its aircraft. It said that it hoped to offer the service this summer, while Bmi said that it was "keen to see all regulatory hurdles removed as soon as practically possible". A couple of obstacles do remain. Other European regulators must still consent to the plan, but Ryanair said that the majority had agreed. In addition, the European Aviation Safety Agency has to approve in-flight equipment for the service. The Civil Aviation Authority would then need to lay down rules governing the use of mobiles in the air.

Although many aircraft already offer on-board phone services at about £5 a minute, passengers in Europe are banned from using their own hand-sets. Initially they would be able to use their phones only in European air-space, but with Emirates introducing its own in-air mobile service last week and futher interest in the US, industry sources expect reciprocal agreements between countries to follow.

It is uncertain whether customers will be prepared to pay premium prices to make calls at 30,000ft. The cost is expected to be substantial as airlines, service providers, satellite providers and on-ground networks will all want a share of the revenue.

David Tansley, telecoms partner at Deloitte, said: "The likely charges and distribution of revenue across the various involved

parties is unclear - it's not certain who the winners will be. The losers will be passengers who find themselves seated next to a 'cost-no-object' mobile user."

The Times Weblog March 2008

Intel rolls out Atom chips at Shanghai tech forum

The low-power, tiny Atom chips will come in speeds of up to 1.86 gigahertz and Intel says that speed, plus other technologies designed into the chip, make it the fastest processor that consumes 3 watts of electricity or less.The recently named Atom family of processors is part of Intel's effort to have chips designed with Intel Architecture -- the fundamental blueprint of its semiconductors -- in myriad computing devices -- from what it calls mobile Internet devices, or MIDs, all the way up to high-performance computers.

Intel made the announcements at its Intel Developer Forum conference last Wednesday in Shanghai, the company said. "Global Internet growth continues unabated," said Anand Chandrasekher, who runs Intel's Ultra Mobility Group. "The best Internet experience is still on the PC, but users want to carry that experience with them."
That is where the Atom and Centrino Atom, come in. The Centrino Atom also includes a single-chip with integrated graphics called Intel System Controller Hub that allows for PC-like capabilities and long battery life for devices that fit in a user's pocket.
"Intel is really pumping this category," said Roger Kay, an analyst with market research firm Endpoint Technologies Associates. "That said, mobile Internet is here. For them this is really a great potential business."
Intel said that the features of the Atom processor -- the "brains" of an electronic device -- and its system controller hub would help device makers create a range of MIDs with differing functions and designs.
Chandrasekher said major device makers are already planning to adopt Atom, with more than 20 manufacturers coming out with products using the processor. As far as MIDs, those will start shipping in May, he said.
He said Intel expects about 30 percent of those MIDs to have both WiFi -- short range high-speed wireless Internet access -- and WiMax -- longer-range high-speed access designed into them.
MID device makers include Asus, Fujitsu, Lenovo, NEC, Panasonic, Samsung, Sharp and Toshiba, among others, and prices will probably average about $500, with some priced higher than that or lower, depending on the functions, Chandrasekher said in a telephone briefing ahead of his keynote speech at the IDF in Shanghai.
The small size of the Atom processor -- the die of the chip is

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In this Issue:

less than 25 square millimeters, or about a 10th of the low-cost Celeron desktop and notebook PC chip -- also lets Intel target the embedded market.

Embedded chips are used in devices such as portable cash registers, robotics for industrial manufacturing, kiosks, patient monitoring and car "infotainment" systems.

The economics of the diminutive chip are appealing, Kay said, noting Intel gets nearly 2,700 Atom processors from a single dinner-plate-size silicon wafer.

He estimates Intel could yield about $30,000 per wafer with a gross margin of around 50 percent, not far off the gross margin of its mainstream PC chips. He put Intel's approximate cost-per-chip for Atom at about $11.

"If you start looking at that number, then the profitability of one of these things sold at $45, or even $160, they're fantastically profitable," Kay said.

Still, do not expect the MID and this new market to take off right out of the gate.

"The world often divides half way between the reality on the ground and where Intel would like it to go," Kay added. "It'll likely go a little more slowly than Intel would like."

Dan Martell
Reuters April 2008

AT & T Claims without Investment the Internet will run out of capacity by 2010

Speaking at a Westminster eForum on web 2.0 this week in London, Jim Cicconi, vice president of legislative affairs for AT&T, warned the current systems that constitute the internet will not be able to cope with the increasing amounts of video and user-generated content being uploaded.

He said: "The surge in online content is at the centre of the most dramatic changes affecting the internet today. In three years' time, 20 typical households will generate more traffic than the entire internet today."

Cicconi, who was speaking at the event as part of a wider series of meetings with UK government officials, said at least $55bn worth of investment was needed in new infrastructure in the next three years in the US alone, with the figure rising to $130bn to improve the network worldwide. He said: "We are going to be butting up against the physical capacity of the internet by 2010."

He claimed the "unprecedented new wave of broadband traffic" would increase fiftyfold by 2015 and that AT&T was investing $19bn to maintain its network and upgrade its backbone network.

Cicconi added that more demand for high-definition (HD) video will put increasing strain on the internet infrastructure. "Eight hours of video is loaded onto YouTube every minute. Everything will become HD very soon and HD is seven to 10 times more bandwidth-hungry than typical video today. Video will be 80 per cent of all traffic by 2010, up from 30 per cent today," he said.

The AT&T executive pointed out that the internet only exists thanks to the infrastructure provided by a group of mostly private companies. He said: "There is nothing magic or ethereal about the internet - it is no more ethereal than the highway system. It is not created by an act of God but upgraded and maintained by private investors."

Although Cicconi's speech did not explicitly refer to the term "net neutrality", some audience members tackled him on the issue in a question-and-answer session, asking whether the subtext of his speech was really around prioritising some kinds of traffic. Cicconi responded by saying he believed government intervention in the

internet was fundamentally wrong.

He said: "I think people agree why the internet is successful. My personal view is that government has widely chosen to… keep a light touch and let innovators develop it. The reason I resist using the term 'net neutrality' is that I don't think government intervention is the right way to do this kind of thing. I don't think government can anticipate these kinds of technical problems. Right now I think net neutrality is a solution in search of a problem."

Net neutrality refers to an ongoing campaign calling for governments to legislate to prevent ISPs from charging content providers for prioritisation of their traffic. The debate is more heated in the US than in the UK because there is less competition between ISPs in the US.

Content creators argue net neutrality should be legislated for in order to protect consumers and keep all internet traffic equal. Network operators and service providers argue that the internet is already unequal and certain types of traffic - **VoIP**, for example - require prioritisation by default.

The US Department of Justice said in a statement last year: "However well-intentioned, regulatory restraints can inefficiently skew investment, delay innovation and diminish consumer welfare, and there is reason to believe that the kinds of broad marketplace restrictions proposed in the name of 'neutrality' would do just that with respect to the internet."

The BBC has come under fire from service providers, such as Tiscali, which claim that its **iPlayer online-TV service is becoming a major drain on network bandwidth**. In a recent posting on his BBC blog, Ashley Highfield, the corporation's director of future media and technology, defended the iPlayer: "I would not suggest that ISPs start to try and charge content providers. They are already charging their customers for broadband to receive any content they want."

*Original article: **AT&T: Internet to hit full capacity by 2010** from **ZDNet UK***

Addiction to Internet an Illness?

Tense? Angry? Can't get online? Internet addiction is now a serious public health issue that should be officially recognised as a clinical disorder, according to a leading psychiatrist.

Excessive gaming, viewing online pornography, emailing and text messaging have been identified as causes of a compulsive-impulsive disorder by Dr Jerald Block, author of an editorial for the respected American Journal of Psychiatry. Block argues that the disorder is now so common that it merits inclusion in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the profession's primary resource to categorise and diagnose mental illnesses. He says internet addiction has four main components:

- Excessive use, often associated with a loss of sense of time or a neglect of basic drives;
- Withdrawal, including feelings of anger, tension and/or depression when the computer is inaccessible;
- The need for better computers, more software, or more hours of use;
- Negative repercussions, including arguments, lying, poor achievement, social isolation and fatigue.

A primary case study is South Korea, which has the greatest use of broadband in the world. Block points out that 10 people died from blood clots from remaining seated for long periods in internet cafes and another was murdered because of an online game. Their country now 'considers internet addiction one of its most serious public health issues'. The government estimates that around 210,000 South Korean children are affected and in need of treatment, of whom 80 per cent might need drugs targeting the brain and nearly a quarter could need to go to hospital. Since the average high school pupil there spends about 23 hours per week gaming, Block notes, another 1.2 million are believed to be at risk of addiction and require basic counselling. There has been alarm over a rising number of addicts dropping out of school or quitting their jobs to spend more time on computers. In China it has been reported that 13.7 per cent of adolescent internet users, about 10 million, could be considered addicts.

Block, a psychiatrist at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, writes that the extent of the disorder is more difficult to estimate in America because people tend to surf at home instead of in internet cafes. But he believes there are similar cases, concluding: 'Unfortunately internet addiction is resistant to treatment, entails significant risks and has high relapse rates.' He told The Observer that he did not believe specific websites were responsible. 'The relationship is with the computer,' he said. 'First, it becomes a significant other to them. Second, they exhaust

emotions that they could experience in the real world on the computer, through any number of mechanisms: emailing, gaming, porn. Third, computer use occupies a tremendous amount of time in their life. Then if you try to cut the cord in a very abrupt fashion, they've lost essentially their best friend. That can take the form of depression or rage.'

Harry Husted, a single 51-year-old from New York, spends 16 hours a day on the internet. He insists that he is not addicted, but admits that he used to be. 'I used to work with computers for eight hours, then get home and go online for seven hours. I would stay up till two or three in the morning until I got so sleepy I had to go to bed. I wouldn't go out to get the groceries and I couldn't have cared less about friends, TV, anything. After a while I realised what was happening and did something about it. Now if I use MySpace it's only to advertise my business.'

Internet addiction clinics have sprung up around the world in an attempt to wean people off their need for a fix. Many people have turned, apparently without irony, to web discussion boards with names such as Internet Addicts Anonymous. The Centre for Internet Addiction Recovery in Bradford, Pennsylvania, says internet addiction has become a growing legal issue in criminal, divorce and employment cases. It offers a consultation service to lawyers that includes 'assessing the role of electronic anonymity in the development of deviant, deceptive and illegal sexual online activities'.

Robert Freedman, editor of the American Journal of Psychiatry, said expressions of the addiction could be diverse. 'In Korea, it seems to be primarily gaming sites. In America, it seems to be Facebook. It's porn, it's games, it's gambling, it's chatting with friends. All these things existed before, but now they're a lot easier.'

To beat the addiction, he advised: 'A self-help group might be a place to start. Maybe replace an online group with a real one.'

Are you a net junkie?

If you answer 'yes' to five or more of these questions, you may have an internet addiction.

· Do you feel preoccupied with the internet? (Think about your online activity or anticipate your next online session.)

· Do you need increasing amounts of time on the net in order to achieve satisfaction?

· Have you repeatedly made unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back or stop internet use?

· Do you feel restless, moody, depressed, or irritable when attempting to cut down or stop internet use?

· Do you stay online longer than originally intended?

· Have you jeopardised or risked the loss of a significant relationship, job, educational or career opportunity because of the internet?

· Have you lied to family members, a therapist or others to conceal the extent of your involvement with the internet?

· Do you use it to escape from problems (eg, feelings of helplessness, guilt, anxiety, depression)?

Source: Centre for Internet Addiction Recovery netaddiction.com

David Smith

The Observer March 2008

Charges for Internet TV on Demand Users

Increasing numbers of computer users are downloarding TV shows from the internet, with 2.2 million people using the BBC's iPlayer Service in its first three months. However, many internet packages only allow users to download one gigabyte, or 1,024 megabytes of data, each month. This is the equivalent of about 1 and half hours of television programmes - less than the length of a feature film or long documentary.

Martin lewis, founder of the consumer website MoneySaving Expert.com, said: "In the old days this limit would only have affected real nerds downloading hours and hours of music. But 1GB is not much more that the episode of the No 1 Ladies'Detective Agency, which was broadcast over Easter".

Some internet users, if they break their data limit, have to pay almost £2 for each extra gigabyte they download.

"This could soon end up hitting £10 or even £20 a month. After all, people are using downloading like video recorders," said Mr. Lewis.

He believes tens of thousands of consumers could be hit inadvertently with these extra charges, which vary between the various internet service providers.

Other providers do not charge, but cut off the service or slow down connection speeds, if users exceed their limits.

The upsurge in family use of BBC iPlayer and Channel 4's On Demand to download from the internet, has caused problems for all the internet service providers. Providers predict that prices will have to be increased in order to cope with the increased demand.

Regulator Ofcom estimates it could cost £830 million over the next five years to upgrade the network so that it can cope with the expected explosion in the popularity of video -not just from the BBC iPlayer.

Extract from Daily Telegraph
March 2008

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Government loses hundreds of laptops

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The answers were in response to parliamentary questions by the Liberal Democrats' shadow business secretary, Sarah Teather.

Other departments who had revealed their statistics over the last six years, included:
• the Department for Transport with 105 laptops and 145 mobiles lost or stolen;
• the Treasury with 45 laptops lost or stolen;
• the Ministry of Justice with 148 laptops lost or stolen;
• the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with 81 laptops lost or stolen since the start of the 2002/03 financial year;
• the Department Children, Families and Schools and its predecessors with 81 laptops and 23 mobile phones lost or stolen;
• Communities and Local Government and its predecessors with 28 laptops lost or stolen;
• the Department of Health with 116 laptops and 110 mobile phones lost or stolen; and
• the Houses of Commons with 33 laptops lost or stolen.

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Coming Soon: Superfast Internet

At speeds about 10,000 times faster than a typical broadband connection, 'the grid' will be able to send the entire Rolling Stones back catalogue from Britain to Japan in less than 2 seconds.

The latest spin-off from Cern, the particle physical centre that cretaed the web, the grid could also provide the kind of power needed to transmit holographic images: allow instant online gaming with hundreds of thousands of players and offer high definiation video telephony for the price of a local call..

David Britton, professor of physical at Glasgow University and a leading figure in the grid project, believe grid technologies could 'revolutionise' society. 'With this kind of computing power, future generations will have the ability to collaborate and communicate in ways older people like me cannot even imagine,' he said.

The power of the grid will become apparent this summer after what scientists at Cern have termed their 'red butotn' day - the switing on of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which is a new particle accelerator built to probe the origin of the universe. The grid will be activated at same time to capture the data it generates.

Cern based near Geneva, started the grid computing project seven years ago when researchers realised the LHC would generate an annual data equivelant to 56M CD - enough to stack 40 miles high.

Acccording to the Sunday Times this meant that scientists at Cern would no longer be able to use the Internet for fear of causing global collapse.This is because the internet has evolved by linking together a hotchpotch of cables and routing equipment, much of which was originally designed for telephone calls and therefore lacks the capacity for high speed data transmission.

In contract, the grid has been built using dedicated fibr eoptic cables and modern routing centres, meaning there are no outdated components to slow the data. The 55,000 servers already installed are expected to rise to 200,000 within the next two years. Professor Tony Doyle, technical director of the grid project, said: 'We need so much processing power, there would even be an issue about getitng enough electricity to run the

computers if they were all at Cern. The only answer was a new network powerful enough to send data instantly to research centre in other countries.

That network in effect a parallel internet, is now built using Fibre Optic cables that run from Cern to 11 centres in the United States, Canada, the Far East, Europe and aorund the world. One terminates at the Rutherford Appleton laboratory at Harwell in Oxfordshire.

From each centre, further connections radiate out to a host of other research institutions using existing high-speed academic networks.

In means Britain has 8,000 servers on the grid system, so that any student or academic will theoretically be able to hook up to the grid rather than to the internet from this Autumn.

Ian Bird, project leader for Cerns high-speed computing project, said grid technology could make the internet so fast people would stop using desktop computer to store information and entrust it all to the internet.

"It will lead to what's known as cloud computing, where people keep all their information onlne and access it from anywhere," he said.

Computers on the grid can also transmit data at lightning speed. This will allow researchers facing heavy processing tasks to call on the assistance of thousands of other computers around the world. The aim is to eliminate the dreaded "frozen screen" experienced by internet users who ask their machine to handle too much information.

The real goal of the grid is, however, to work with the LHC in tracking down nature's most elusive particle, the Higgs boson. Predicted in theory but never yet found, the Higgs is supposed to be what gives matter mass.

The LHC has been designed to hunt out this particle - but even at optimum performance it will generate only a few thousand of the particles a year. Analysing the mountain of data will be such a large task that it will keep even the grid's huge capacity busy for years to come.

Although the grid itself is unlikely to be directly available to domestic internet users, many telecoms providers and businesses are already introducing its iponeering technologies. One of the most potent is so-called dynamic switching, which creates a dedicated channel for internet users trying to download large volumes of data such as films. In theory this would give a standard desktop comupter the ability to downlaod a movie in five seconds rather than the current three hours or so.

Additionally, the grid is being make available to dozens of other academic researchers including astronomers and molecular biologists.

It has already been used to help design new drugs against malaria, the mosquito-borne disease that kills 1m people worldwide each year. Researchers used the grid to analyse 140m compounds - a task that would have taken a standard internet-linked PC 420 years.

"Projects like the grid will bring huge changes in business and society as well as science," Doyle said.

"Holographic video conferencing is not that far away. Online gaming could evolve to include many thousands of people, and socila networking could become the main way we communicate.

"The history of the internet shows you cannot predict its real impacts but we know they will be huge."

First Published in Sunday Times
6th April 2008

Third Supplier drops out of ID Cards

A third supplier has dropped out of the procurement process for the National Identity Scheme.

Joining BAE Systems and Accenture, Steria has pulled out of the procurement process citing political and commercial reasons.

Speaking to GC News, a spokesperson for the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) said this was not a problem and not unusual.

"We have had a very healthy level of interest from high-calibre suppliers, and this is precisely why we have run the competitive dialogue over the last few months, to make sure we have the right suppliers in the right roles," they said

"We are now set to issue invitations to tender next month and expect to award the framework contract in May to four or five prime suppliers. Those suppliers can choose to supplement their capabilities with subcontractors, and there could also be other contracts procured outside the framework which other firms would also be able to bid for."

The remaining interested contractors are CSC, EDS, Fujitsu, IBM and Thales.

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HSBC faces the prospect of an investigation by the FSA after admititng it had lost 370,000 customers details

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HSBC is facing the prospect of an investigation by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) after admitting it had lost a disc containing details of 370,000 customers.The disc went missing around four weeks ago after being sent from the group's offices inSouthampton to a reinsurer with an external courier. The disc contained personal data including the names, dates of birth and the life insurance cover levels of mortgage holders who borrowed from the bank was stored on the disc, which went missing around four weeks ago.

HSBC has informed the FSA about the breach and it is thought the group could be investigated and face a fine if the regulator finds that security was lax.

The City watchdog has previously fined firms for not having proper systems in place to protect customers' data.

It fined insurer Norwich Union £1.26 million in December for not having effective controls in place, enabling fraudsters to get hold of customers' details and cash in £3.3 million of policies. Additionally the FSA fined Nationwide £980,000 last year after a laptop which contained confidential customer details was stolen from an employee's home.An HSBC spokesman told the press that the disc was password-protected and the FSA have declined comment.

The latest data loss echoes last year's breach by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), in which two CD's with personal details of 25 million child benefit recipients were lost in the post suggesting that we are still along way from learning lessons when it comes to the secure handling and storage of what has become our biggest asset - *data*.

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April 2008 - Case Communications Launches their CRM 60502 Mobile GSM / 3G Router.

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The CRM 60502 is ideally suited for wireless applications such as Internet Access, AVL, Telemetry, SCADA, mobile computing and AMR. A Key differentiator is that the CRM 60502 provides a fully configurable embedded Linux Router enabling firewalling, DHCP, DNA, NAT and Security in the form of iP Sec, SSH with AES or 3DES encryption. The CRM 60502 also has a built in Terminal server with 3 serial ports.

Operating from 10 to 30v dc or from a mains power supply the CRM 60502 can be used for applications such as vehicle monitoring where the built in GPS sensor relays back to a central location via a 3G network a vehicles current location, or the status of the vehicle.

Other applications which Use Case Communications CRM 60502 routers are for ATM (Automatic teller machine), POS – (Point of sales terminals), and gaming terminals.

For more information on the Case Communications CRM 60502 please follow the link below.

http://www.casecomms.com/products/routers/ip/Cellular%20Rugged%20Routing%20Modem.htm

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